

Message Text

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ACTION COA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 AGR-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 COME-00 EB-11 INT-08 IO-12 SCI-06

EPA-04 CEQ-02 CG-00 RSR-01 /167 W
----- 013822

R 231757 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5259

INFO AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 07451

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, OCON, GW

SUBJECT: FISHERIES: ICNAF: PRELIMINARY REACTION OF
FRG AGRICULTURAL MINISTRY TO U. S. PROPOSALS

REF: A. STATE 9 0315; B. STATE 86329; C. STATE 8629 O;
D. STATE 85811; E. BONN 6817

1. SUMMARY. WE HAVE FOLLOWED UP OUR EARLIER
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REPRESENTATIONS ON US/ ICNAF PROPOSALS WITH AN APPROACH TO THE AGRICULTURAL MINISTRY. THIS MINISTRY'S REPRESENTATIVE, BOOSS, GAVE US A PRELIMINARY INDICATION OF OPPOSITION TO ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSED EFFORT LIMITATION AT THE JUNE ICNAF MEETING. HE WAS MORE FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD GEAR RESTRICTIONS AND STRENGTHENED ENFORCEMENT, ALTHOUGH THE FRG HAS TO STUDY FURTHER THE SPECIFIC U. S. PROPOSALS IN THESE AREAS. END SUMMARY.

2. BECAUSE DR. BOOSS WAS IN LONDON LAST WEEK WE WERE NOT ABLE TO DELIVER TO HIM UNTIL MAY 21 THE NOTE BY THE U. S. COMMISSIONERS (REFTEL A) AND TO REVIEW WITH HIM THE PRESENTATION MADE BY THE AMBASSADOR TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE (BASED ON REFTELS B AND C). BOOSS WAS AWARE OF U. S. PROPOSALS FROM HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH U. K. OFFICIALS AND FROM THE NOTE OF THE U. S. COMMISSIONERS WHICH HAS NOW BEEN RECEIVED THROUGH ICNAF. BOOSS, THEREFORE, WISHED TO GIVE US A PRELIMINARY REACTION FOR HIS MINISTRY.

3. BOOSS SAID HE SHARED BRITISH SURPRISE THAT THE U. S. WAS THREATENING TO WITHDRAW FROM ICNAF AS WELL AS TO TAKE OTHER UNILATERAL ACTION. HE QUESTIONED WHETHER THIS WAS THE PROPER WAY TO PROCEED AT THIS POINT, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE U. S. SHAD RAISED THE PROSPECT OF WITHDRAWAL LAST YEAR TO GET SPECIES QUOTAS ADOPTED BY ICNAF. THE REPEATED THREAT, HE SAID, SEEMS TO RAISE SOME DOUBT AS TO WHETHER WITHDRAWAL FROM, OR STRENGTHENING OF, ICNAF IS THE U. S. OBJECTIVE.

4. IN PRINCIPLE, BOOSS SAID, HIS MINISTRY HAS NO OBJECTION TO EFFORT LIMITATION. HOWEVER HE CONSIDERED THE BASIC U. S. PROPOSAL FOR A 25 PERCENT REDUCTION IN CURRENT FISHING EFFORT TO BE PREMATURE AND INADEQUATELY WORKED OUT IN A TECHNICAL SENSE TO PRODUCE A BALANCED AND EQUITABLE REDUCTION IN CATCH. THE PROPOSAL WAS, HE THOUGHT, " PREMATURE" BECAUSE THE SYSTEM OF SPECIES QUOTAS HAD NOT BEEN GIVEN AN ADEQUATE TRIAL. IT WAS " INADEQUATELY WORKED OUT" SINCE IT, FOR EXAMPLE,

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PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 COME-00 EB-11 INT-08 IO-12 SCI-06

EPA-04 CEQ-02 CG-00 RSR-01 /167 W
----- 013831

R 231757 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5260

INFO AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY LISBON

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INCLUDED NO DATA ON EQUIVALANCES, THAT IS, THE BASIS FOR
CALCULATING EQUIVALENT REDUCTION OF EFFORT WHEN VESSELS
OF VARYING CATCH CAPABILITY ARE INVOLVED. IT'S RESULTS
WOULD BE " UNBALANCED" SINCE THE PROPOSAL APPLIED ONLY
TO A LIMITED AREA AND " INEQUITABLE" SINCE IT ADDRESSED
THE BY- CATCH PROBLEM BY REDUCING EQUALLY NATIONAL FISH-
ING EFFORTS WHICH INVOLVED LARGE BY- CATCH AND THOSE

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THAT INVOLVED INSIGNIFICANT BY- CATCH.

5. ON THE LAST POINT, BOOSS ASSERTED THAT THE FRG
FISHING EFFORT IN AREAS 5 AND 6 INVOLVED ONLY HERRING,

CAUGHT BY MID- WATER TRAWLERS WHICH YIELDED VERY LITTLE CATCH OTHER THAN HERRING. A 25 PERCENT REDUCTION IN FRG EFFORT WOULD AMOUNT, THEREFORE, TO BE 25 PERCENT REDUCTION IN ITS HERRING CATCH. THIS WOULD FOLLOW, BOOSS SAID, A 40 REDUCTION IN THE FRG HERRING CATCH LAST YEAR IN RESPONSE TO THE ADOPTION OF ICNAF HERRING QUOTAS. ON THE BASIS OF WHAT HE KNEW ABOUT HERRING STOCKS, BOOSS SAID HE COULD NOT JUSTIFY A FURTHER REDUCTION NOW TO THE FRG HERRING INDUSTRY.

6. BOOSS WAS MORE POSITIVE REGARDING SUPPLEMENTAL U. S. PROPOSALS. HE CONSIDERED FURTHER LIMITATIONS ON MINIMUM MESH SIZE TO BE REASONABLE, ALTHOUGH HE HAD NOT YET STUDIED THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE SPECIFIC SIZES PROPOSED BY THE U. S. HE DID HAVE RESERVATIONS REGARDING THE EQUITY OF APPLYING MESH SIZE LIMITATIONS TO JUST A FEW SUB- AREAS. BOOSS ALSO SAID HIS MINISTRY FAVORS STRONGER CONTROLS AND ENFORCEMENT TO PREVENT OVERFISHING AND PROVIDE FOR MORE COMPLETE ATTRIBUTION OF BY- CATCH TO SPECIES QUOTAS. FROM THE STANDPOINT OF FISHERIES INTERESTS, BOOSS SAID HIS MINISTRY HAD NO PROBLEM WITH DETENTION OF VESSELS WHICH VIOLATE ICNAF REGULATIONS -- BUT HE WAS SURE THE FRG' S INTERNATIONAL LAWYERS WOULD HAVE OTHER VIEWS ON THIS PROPOSAL.
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FISHING REGULATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BONN07451
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730550/aaaajnxo.tel
Line Count: 196
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION COA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 STATE 90315, 73 STATE 86329, 73 STATE 86290, 73 STATE 85811, 73 BONN 6817
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08-Aug-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <12-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 980225
Subject: FISHERIES: ICNAF: PRELIMINARY REACTION OF FRG AGRICULTURAL MINISTRY TO U. S. PROPOSALS
TAGS: EFIS, GE, US, ICNAF
To: COA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005